EDWARD RECTOR

GEORGE RICHMOND GROSE

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EDWARD RECTOR

Edward Rector

A Story of the Middle West

By

GEORGE RICHMOND GROSE

One of the Bishops of the Methodist
Episcopal Church

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CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

INTRODUCTION

To leave unwritten the biography of such a man as Edward Rector would be depriving the world of the knowledge and acquaintance of a most beautiful and heroic soul.

To allow his memory to fade or grow dim in the minds of men would be permitting them to lose one of their most priceless possessions. To keep from the knowledge of the oncoming youth, to whose interests he dedicated his life, the inspiration of his noble living would be proving recreant to a most obvious duty and obligation. Therefore, when he left us our first thought was, "Here is a life whose history must be preserved."

Would that it were possible to add to the accurate and inspiring picture that Bishop Grose has given in words, an impressionistic picture in colors of the beauty and attractiveness of his face! Life was so good and beautiful to him that it beamed from his very face and became manifest in every act. He, almost more than anyone whom I have known, had that rare and peculiar gift of making goodness desirable and attractive to

the young. The things that are honest and just and pure when embodied in him became truly "lovely and of good report."

Mother Nature in bestowing her gifts on him was most kind, almost profligate. She held out both hands to him, in one of which there was a brilliant mind and in the other an unusual capacity for friendship; and, instead of asking him to choose, she gave him both—a mind so clear, so strong, so penetrating, so accurate that it at once recognized the truth as by intuition and saw through all pretense and falsity, and a personality that irresistibly drew all men to him.

The preparation of this book has been entirely a labor of love. No one has laid hands on it except in this spirit, and we all, Mr. Rector's friends, are under lasting obligations to the author. It is the spontaneous reaction of Mr. Rector's unselfish spirit and for that reason, added to the intrinsic merit of the work, it deserves to be read and studied.

HENRY B. LONGDEN,
Vice-President, DePauw University
Greencastle, Indiana,
February 29, 1928.

FOREWORD

THE purpose of this little book is to tell the story of Edward Rector and his investment. It is a romance of American opportunity. It is a chapter out of the annals of the Middle West illustrating the genius and the nobility of professional success and business achievement at their best. The early life of Edward Rector presents a fascinating picture of the American home in the last half of the nineteenth century. The story of his struggles for an education, of his rise to distinction as a lawyer, and his illustrious career guided and transfused at every step by a lofty purpose belongs to all aspiring youth. The investment of his great fortune and the dedication of the last ten years of his life to educational philanthropy give his name an honorable place among American philanthropists. His munificent gifts to higher education marked a new epoch in the history of one of the oldest colleges of the Middle West. DePauw University will always hold the name of Rector in sacred remembrance.

But the compelling reason for this biographical study is the personality and character of Edward Rector. His was a radiant nature, a luminous soul, with clear mind, high purpose, and imperial will, clothed always with simplicity and modesty, whose portrait must be preserved. I am writing this story because it must be told. If I can present the simple record of his life and so interpret his character that his immortality becomes a bit more real to those who knew and loved him, and if I can make him stand forth in the imagination of the coming generations of college youth, blessed by his benefactions, the strong, winsome, noble, inspiring friend, with whom, though unseen, I walk daily, my purpose will be fulfilled.

This little volume is written at the request of the Edward Rector Scholarship Foundation of DePauw University and with the approval of Mrs. Lucy Rowland Rector, who shared and inspired the services of her devoted husband.

G. R. G.

CHAPTER I

AN INDIANA HOME

EDWARD RECTOR was a son of the Middle West. He was born in Bedford, Indiana, July 7, 1863. His grandfather, Jesse Rector, had migrated from his native State, Virginia, when Isaac Rector, the father of Edward, was only five years old, and settled in southern Indiana. The grandfather enlisted in Washington's army and participated in the siege of Yorktown. Edward's father belonged to the pioneer period of the Middle West when the country was wild and wooded, when privations and hardships toughened the fiber of men's souls. Edward's boyhood days were enlivened by his grandfather's stories of Revolutionary times and by his father's tales of Indians and wild game which abounded in the uncleared country.

The early life of Edward Rector belongs to the transition period between the pioneer's settlement and clearing of a new country and the era of great agricultural and industrial

development. His childhood home was typical of the good homes of the Middle West sixty years ago. The houses were all built on the same architectural lines: Two stories, with a hall from the front straight through the center, on one side of which was a living room and bedroom, and on the other side a parlor and dining room with a kitchen and porch in the rear; the parlor always dark with its closed wooden shutters. Its furniture upholstered with black hair-cloth, with a conventional marble-topped table in the center, on which reposed the family Bible and the family album, and a "what-not" in the corner. The room was a solemn place in the minds of children, as it was associated with "quiet Sundays," stiff parties, and funerals. The Rector homestead was a place of modest comfort and of genteel refinement. It was embellished by a wealth of flowers and shrubbery which Isaac Rector tended with his own hands. The garden with its profusion of vegetables and the grove of maple trees near by with its yearly yield of maple syrup complete the picture of the early "Rector Place."

This beautiful home made a lasting im-

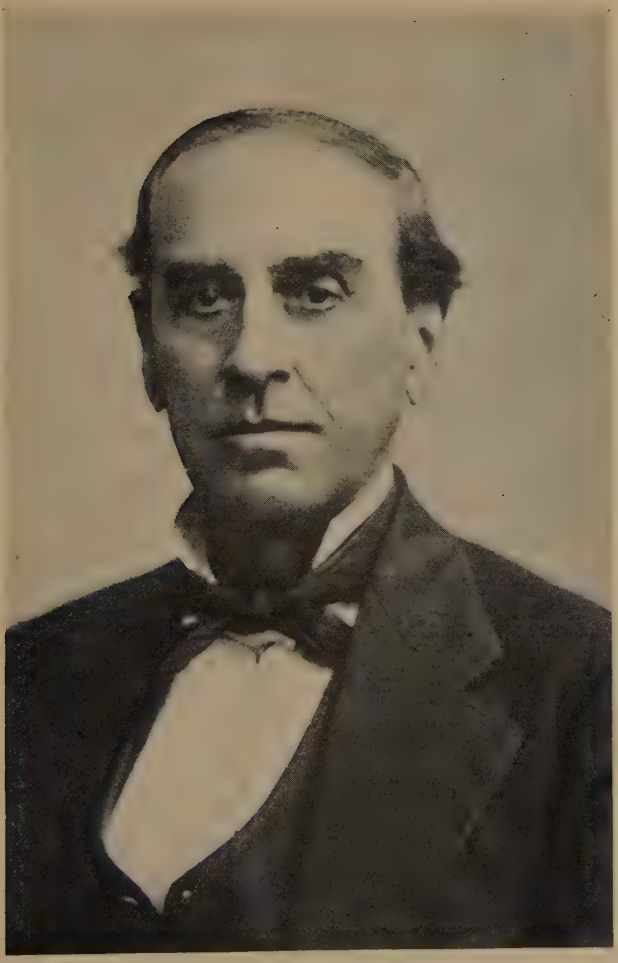
RECTOR HOME IN BEDFORD, INDIANA

pression upon the mind of Edward. He inherited from his father a love of nature and fondness for flowers and trees which found expression in the grounds of his own home and of Rector Hall.

At the age of twenty-five Isaac Rector was married to Juliet B. Gardiner of Columbus, Ohio. The Gardiner family was of English descent. Seven children, five sons and two daughters, were born to Isaac Rector and Juliet Gardiner, of whom Edward was the youngest. The oldest son, James, enlisted in the army and died of typhoid fever in 1861; another son named Albert died in the same year. The other two sons, Jesse Winford and Charles Poole, were several years older than Edward and left home when he was a young child. The younger of the two brothers, Charles, entered the army as an expert telegraph operator. The other brother went to Kansas where he became a lawyer and later a farmer. The younger of the two sisters, Harriet, died in 1874 shortly after graduating from high school. The other sister, Mary, lived with her father in Washington, D. C., until his death in 1899. She spent the remainder of her life in Wash-

ington, devoting all her time with great enthusiasm to religious and charitable work. Rarely endowed with keenness of mind, womanly grace, and iron will, the kinship between her and her brother Edward was supernaturally close. The mother died when Edward was sixteen years of age.

Many of the noble lineaments in the character of Edward were presaged in the life of his father Isaac Rector. Born in Virginia, he grew to young manhood on a farm in southern Indiana. After a few years of employment in a drygoods store he entered the State Bank and for a period of twenty years or more engaged in the banking business. He was prosperous and reputed to be the wealthiest man in the county. But shortly after the close of the Civil War he failed in business, and in order to meet his obligations surrendered all his property. He gave up the beautiful house in which Edward was born with everything in it and moved his family into a small rented house near by. Edward Rector's childhood recollections of the stalwart integrity and heroic fortitude of his father in this time of adversity entered like iron into his soul.



ISAAC RECTOR

In a reminiscent sketch of his childhood and youth written a short time before his death Mr. Rector gives us an illuminating picture of his boyhood home. The intimate contacts with neighbors, sharing with one another work, games, table delicacies, and the burdens of sickness and misfortune, developed his passion for friends. The ardor and tenacity of the friendships of his later life began to appear in the wholesome associations of his Bedford home. The simple joys of country life were cherished recollections. The Fourth-of-July celebrations attended by great crowds to listen to a "spellbinder," with the added attraction of candy, peanut, and lemonade stands; the visits to the country home of uncles and aunts, whose table was always loaded with the best; travel on horseback, by stagecoach and river-boat; the annual scourges of malaria with its accompanying specific, bottles of quinine; the neighborly exchanges of work and of household supplies, featured country life in Indiana sixty years ago. Its simplicity was its charm.

One of the most revealing glimpses of his childhood home is the lad at work. Whether

by dint of family circumstances or by parental training he early acquired the habit of diligent work. In his autobiographical notes he dwells with evident satisfaction upon his first experiences in earning money. He picked berries in the season, "bugged" potatoes, repaired cane-bottomed chairs, sawed wood, clerked in a drug store, worked in a printing office, copied manuscript, and kept books. He worked at every job with real zest. His energy and enthusiasm in work, his thrift and enterprise in business so notable in his later career were foreshadowed in Mr. Rector's boyhood.

Little wonder that he cherished the memories of the Bedford home with sacred delight. The business integrity of his father, the self-sacrificing devotion of his mother and sister Mary, the reverence for education and religion, the atmosphere of good cheer and refinement made fertile soil for growing a noble soul. The knightly qualities which flowered in his manhood were planted in the garden of his early home. Rector Hall, his first munificent gift to higher education, stands as Edward Rector's reverent tribute to his father and to his childhood home.

CHAPTER II

SCHOOL DAYS AND AFTER

THE education of Edward Rector began with his father and grandfather. The first school he attended was a private school in a loghouse taught by his sister Mary. The first high school organized in Bedford, Indiana, was in the year 1871. There were then but few high schools in the State. There is no more romantic chapter in the development of the Middle West than the story of the growth of the public-school system: sixty years ago not a high school in the commonwealth of Indiana that would meet present-day standards. Now more than six hundred high schools with curricula equal to the college curricula of fifty years ago. The new two-story school building, with four rooms on each floor, Mr. Rector describes as the pride of the town. He entered high school at the age of eleven and graduated at fourteen. He pays discriminating and affectionate tribute to James H. Madden and to Miss

Frances Simpson, his teachers, both of whom had been trained in Professor Holbrook's Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. His admiration for the robust, forceful character of Miss Simpson, whose penmanship was also striking, led young Rector to imitate her bold, freehand writing.

One of his classmates at a reunion of his high school class humorously describes Edward Rector in vivid, if not poetic lines:

"To the foot of the stage stepped a tiny tot,
Not five feet tall, and with very white hair;
A childish young person, he stood waiting there
With innocence written on every feature—
'Tis hard to imagine a more youthful creature.
Many smiles here and there one began to spy,
For some thought he'd escaped a watchful eye
And wandered out on the edge of the stage,
Where he stood unabashed and unafraid.
But soon the boy ended all the suspense
When he thundered forth, 'On the Fence!'
Then they say 'twas the Prodigy, nothing worse,
Who at fourteen finished the high school course.

In Edward Rector, the toastmaster tonight,
You may all see that one-time Prodigy bright."

In the plea of this high-school youth for courage in decision and in his mental intensity there are prefigured the intellectual and moral qualities which led him to professional eminence.

Rector's high-school associations reveal his early bent for friendship. He made frequent journeys to Bedford for the reunions of his graduating class. Arista B. Williams, an attorney of Chicago, and Professor Frank M. Stalker, for many years a teacher in the Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute, Indiana, and other members of his graduating class, were in a preferred list of friends. I have never known a man with so wide a circle of acquaintances covering a period of three score years whose early and later friendships alike were cherished with such genuine personal interest and loyal devotion. From his youth to his dying hour his whole nature was pouring forth the finest friendship and the richest human sentiment.

His graduation from high school ended

young Rector's school days until he entered the law school of Cincinnati five years later. Lack of means prevented his entering college with six other members of his class in the fall of 1874. He never ceased to regret that he was deprived of college training. When he made his first substantial gift to aid poor students in college he said to the writer, "I must do something to help earnest young men get a college education which was denied me forty years ago." His passion for knowledge burning when he was in the earlier teens was the perpetual urge in his high professional attainments and in his great educational enterprise. In the enkindled mind of this disappointed youth waving farewell to his classmates departing for college there was born the deepest impulse of his later life—to give not benevolence to the poor, but opportunity to the aspiring.

Following his graduation from high school young Rector found employment in a drug store. After the failure of his employer he went into a printing office at one dollar and fifty cents per week. He told with pardonable pride of his first substantial earning. He copied the manuscript of an intended

book of one thousand six hundred pages for which he received fifty dollars, with a bonus of ten dollars for the excellence of his work. The money was immediately deposited in the bank. Years afterward he wrote, "I well remember the intense interest with which I watched my deposit entered in the little pass book, which I still have somewhere among my treasured possessions." And then he adds playfully, "This piece of work laid the foundation of my future fortune; as I have never since had less than sixty dollars." The habit of hard work, thrift, and frugality formed in early youth fashioned his whole business career. He passed from one position to another, increasingly responsible and remunerative until he reached a clerkship in the courthouse. For two years he was employed in the county recorder's office and in the office of the county auditor. At the same time he kept books in the evenings to increase his income.

During this period of varied employment young Rector was trying to find himself. His boyish fancy at one time pictured his becoming a printer, at another time a shoemaker. The village shoemaker's shop which

afforded steady employment was a popular community center. The jolly proprietors with an inexhaustible fund of humorous stories Edward observed had a dependable livelihood. At one time he seriously thought of learning the trade and making it his life-work. In later years he wrote with droll irony, "I have sometimes wondered if the world had not lost a first-class shoemaker in return for a second-class lawyer."

There were strong currents of unconscious influence which turned young Rector toward the law as a profession. Moses F. Dunn, whose book manuscript he copied, was a brilliant and accomplished lawyer of rare charm of manner in personal intercourse and an eloquent public speaker. His uncle, Richard W. Thompson, was a lawyer of distinction and of high standing as a citizen of Indiana and secretary of the navy in President Hayes' cabinet. Another uncle, A. M. Stem, a successful merchant of Cincinnati, was greatly admired by Edward Rector and helped to set him the more firmly in his own ideals and convictions. He writes: "Of rather stern yet genial disposition, a man of utmost sincerity and frankness and rugged unswerv-

ing integrity of thought and action, I have always revered his memory." The contacts of these enkindling personalities started the latent fires of his own ambition to make for himself a worthy place.

After trying out his youthful powers in varied forms of employment for five years a guiding hand was laid upon him. Judge William H. Martin, an able lawyer, "wedded to his profession," saw in Edward Rector a youth of promise. He persuaded his young friend to begin the study of law. Fragments of time picked up between office hours in the courthouse were devoted to reading Walker's *American Law*. Little did young Rector's friendly mentor dream that he was setting the feet of one on the professional highway to a career that would eclipse his own and at the same time open the door of educational opportunity to an unending procession of aspiring youth.

Another quality of this Indiana youth has already appeared—his humanness. His human interests were full-orbed—industrious, enterprising, and earnest, but never morbidly serious. Loafing on rainy Saturdays at the shoeshop, playing "scrub," the

nearest substitute for baseball available, hunting small game, angling in the country streams, which yielded small fish and big stories; close, friendly contacts with folks, all sorts of folks—these were the diversions with which Edward Rector passed his leisure. His description of neighbor friends reveal the deepest interest in people and keenest insight into their character. His newspaper friend with unlimited capacity for beer and cheese, whose avoirdupois kept his feet firmly on the ground; the capable and faithful county official; his one-time employer, a red-headed fiery tempered little dynamo with a big heart and great energy; "Aunt Miranda," the highly respected neighbor and friend of the family; the well-known lawyer of the town of commanding presence, in the habit of mumbling to himself whether "wet" or "dry"; James Whitcomb Riley's fascinating public readings in the early days of his career; the painfully pious churchman stern and severe in business; another employer an altogether admirable and lovable man—from these he was happily learning some of the most valuable lessons of life.

During the summer of 1881, when he was

eighteen years of age, Edward made his first visit to Chicago. The city made upon him a great impression. It was ten years after the great fire. Large areas were still covered with temporary buildings. No electric street cars, no electric lights, telephones, or automobiles. But there were then half a million alert, energetic people whose enterprise fascinated young Rector. His interest in the one thousand two hundred horse power Corliss steam engine recently installed at the then new plant of the Pullman Car Company was prophetic of his future professional specialty. He little thought as he explored the wonders of the great city with his intimate friends, Robert C. Houston and Albert B. Cole, that he would be playing a prominent part in the professional and institutional activities of the great metropolis of the West within a score of years. One cannot trace the simple events in the early life of Edward Rector without finding it easier to believe that "Everyman's life is a plan of God," and that

"There is a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will."

CHAPTER III

A STUDENT OF LAW

In 1882 Rector began the study of law in earnest. Finding he could not make satisfactory progress reading law and continuing his work in the courthouse, he resigned his position, much to the disgust of his friends. Through his cousin, Arthur Stem, he promptly secured a position in Cincinnati as clerk in the law office of Stem & Peck, whose practice was chiefly in patent law. His services were so useful to the firm that he was able thereby to meet the expenses of his legal education in the Law School of the University of Cincinnati. Three years of combined office work and law study tested the limit of his physical strength. He followed his rigid schedule of daily work with an iron will—rising invariably at 6 A. M.; one hour's study; followed by breakfast; work in the office, Law School lectures; gymnasium exercise 5:30 to 6:30; study 7:30 to 10, when he retired. In order to perform more satis-

EDWARD RECTOR
(At twenty-one)

factorily his double duties in the law firm and in the university he took up the study of shorthand. He pursued the course with such intensity that in a few months he became thoroughly proficient as a stenographer. In the spring of 1885 he graduated with second honors in a class of sixty-two. A few days later he was admitted to the bar of Ohio before the Supreme Court at Columbus.

He then expected to enter the general practice of law. He was urged to continue for the remainder of the year with the firm of Stem & Peck.

Mr. Rector was no sooner admitted to the bar than he threw himself with burning energy into the study and practice of law. Increasing responsibilities were given him by the firm in which he was employed. These early professional experiences revealed his future promise. He recalled with keen delight his first professional visit to Detroit, a beautiful thriving city in the eighties, where he found one of the earliest electric car lines in America.

A later business trip to Goshen, Indiana, was the beginning of his acquaintance with John H. Baker, then a member of Congress,

and later judge of the United States District Court at Indianapolis. I recall a visit to Judge Baker thirty years later, when he was in advanced age and found him reading Homer's *Iliad* in the original and other classics. It was on a trip to New Orleans in 1885 that he met Philip H. Dyrenforth, a prominent attorney of Chicago, who was on the opposing side in the case which Rector represented. The personal kindness and consideration shown the young lawyer by a veteran at the bar made a lasting impression upon Mr. Rector and was the beginning of a life-long friendship. He writes in his journal, "I have always endeavored to follow Mr. Dyrenforth's example in my intercourse with younger and less experienced members of the bar"—a quality in which he excelled. A similar business trip to California was the beginning of his intimate friendship with Governor Samuel D. Fifield, of Wisconsin. Mr. Rector records his first court experience in Saint Louis, where he had been sent to secure the dismissal of a suit in the United States Court because of a controlling decision rendered by another court. When Rector presented the case, Judge

Treat, the presiding judge, ignored his previous promise to take up the matter at that time and gruffly refused a hearing. The young attorney was much confused and chagrined, not knowing what to do. Shortly afterward Judge Brewer, later a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, withdrew from the bench and retired to his chambers. He summoned Mr. Rector, greeted him cordially, apologized for Judge Treat's action, and said he would take up the matter and dispose of it. "While I often saw Justice Brewer on the supreme bench in Washington, I never met him personally again or had another opportunity of thanking him for his courtesy and kindness to me. The two judges with whom I had my first experience in court have always held very different places in my memory." So wrote Edward Rector forty years after the incident. These experiences at the beginning of his professional career reveal the soul of a fine-grained, high-minded gentleman.

It was during this first period of his legal practice after he and Mr. Peck had formed a partnership that his work began with the National Cash Register Company. This

professional service soon brought him into touch with Mr. William A. MacLeod and Frederick P. Fish of Boston, both leaders at the bar, with whom later Rector became fast friends. About the same time he formed the acquaintance of Mr. Henry B. Renwick, of New York City, of whom Mr. Rector writes: "He was then a man of about seventy years of age and a giant physically and mentally. He was a scientific expert in patent litigation. His brother was the architect of Saint Patrick's Cathedral and many of New York's noted buildings." Rector continues: "I think Mr. Renwick was the ablest man in his profession whom I have ever met, and I have always felt in after years that my association with him in those early days was of very great benefit to me. One thing I learned from him, or imagined I did, was thoroughness and intellectual honesty or integrity. He examined the case laid before him with the utmost thoroughness, and if he felt that the case was not a good one on the side presented to him, he would not take it." Life-long associates of Edward Rector at the bar have said that in these words he was unwittingly describing himself.

Mr. Rector pays grateful tribute also to Mr. Fish, whose great ability and stalwart character profoundly impressed the young lawyer and influenced him throughout his life. Edward Rector's personal reactions in his early professional days to men of great ability and distinction at the bar discover to us the superior stuff in his make-up. It was like answering to like, deep calling to deep. "He walked with tall men comradewise."

CHAPTER IV

A MASTER AT THE BAR

RECTOR'S rise to prominence at the bar was rapid but by no magic or accident. He was persuaded shortly after his graduation from law school to join with Mr. Peck in a new firm, known as Peck & Rector. This partnership, formed in 1886, continued until 1892, when Rector reluctantly withdrew to take up his work in Chicago. During the period of his practice in Cincinnati he laid securely the foundation of his future eminence. At the outset he little thought of making patent law his specialty. "On the contrary," he said, "by the time I had finished my course in the law school I felt that I knew entirely too much law ever to confine my activities to one narrow branch. Rather, like Lord Bacon, I would take all law, if not all knowledge, for my province!" His early associations in the law office and his own natural bent gradually opened up to him the field in which he was to achieve dis-

tinction. His industry was untiring. His alert intelligence, transparent sincerity, and efficient service soon won not only the confidence but the affection of his clients. With consummate skill he was sketching the outlines of his future career.

Some of his early clients became prominent in great industries in the country and later placed Rector in general charge of their patent litigation. Notable among the great corporations which he served as counsel were the National Cash Register Company, the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, the Boyer Machine Co., Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co., Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Splitdorf Co., Todd Protectograph Co., Swift & Co., Toledo Scale Co., Detroit Lubricator Co., National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, General Motors Corporation, Packard Company, Studebaker Corporation, General Electric Company, Thompson-Houston Co., American Telephone and Telegraph Co., Western Electric Co., Tiemens-Halske Co., and Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. Some of these clients put him in general charge of their patent interests. In the litigation of

these companies he was associated with the most eminent lawyers in the profession, among whom were Frederick P. Fish, R. H. Parkinson, Charles C. Linthicum, Amos C. Miller, and Drury W. Cooper. The litigation of these companies involved vast fortunes and affected in a far-reaching way the industries of the country.

After six years of practice Rector had firmly established himself with a good income. However, he was not satisfied with his future outlook in Cincinnati. The city was conservative and making slow progress. The volume of business in his specialty was not large. On his frequent professional visits to Chicago he felt the call of that energetic and rapidly growing city. It was a bold venture "to give up an assured income of four or five thousand dollars a year and start out alone in a strange city." But after long mental struggle the decision was made and he burned the bridges behind him. His senior partner, Mr. Peck, was reluctant to have him leave but accepted his decision in good faith and dealt with him with generous kindness.

An interesting side-light upon the char-

acter and business fidelity of Rector is seen in the cordial relations which existed between him and his employees and associates in every position that he held. From his drug-store clerkship as a lad until the end of his career he had the good will and confidence of his business associates in an unusual degree.

In the spring of the year 1892 Edward Rector moved to Chicago and opened his office in the then new Chamber of Commerce Building on La Salle and Washington Streets. He playfully observes: "I have never been superstitious, else I should hardly have begun my venture in Chicago as I did, on April Fool's Day, which was also Friday, and taken office No. 1314 on the 13th floor of the building!"

From the beginning of his work in Chicago fortune favored him. He retained many of his former Cincinnati clients and his business developed rapidly. After he had built up an extensive practice and established a wide reputation, he took into partnership Samuel E. Hibben, the firm name becoming Rector & Hibben. Later Frank Parker Davis was added and the firm name became

Rector, Hibben & Davis. Then John B. McCauley entered the firm, which became Rector, Hibben, Davis & McCauley. These partners continued their association with the later addition of several junior partners until Mr. Rector's death in August, 1926. By this large office staff he was looked upon as the premier. But never with feelings of jealousy. He held his place of leadership by his rare ability, winsome personality, and primacy of character.

Rector's high professional standing is indicated not alone by the magnitude of the business interests which he represented in litigation during a period of thirty-five years; he was a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court, most of the United States Courts of Appeal, many United States District Courts, the Supreme Court of Illinois and subordinate courts; of the American Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, and the Chicago Patent Law Association. He held responsible positions in the directorates of several of the great corporations of the country. He was intimately associated almost from the beginning with the develop-

ment of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company and other great industrial enterprises.

What was the appraisal of Edward Rector, lawyer, by the experts of his profession?

The Chicago Patent Law Association shortly after his death made this significant record concerning Mr. Rector's professional career:

"He was justly recognized and esteemed by members of his profession throughout the country, by clients, by numerous federal courts before which he appeared, including the Supreme Court of the United States, the Circuit Courts of Appeal and District Courts of most Federal Circuits, as an advocate of superior learning, ability, and character, especially qualified to interpret and to expound the intricacies of patent cases, where the nature and boundaries of marvelous, complex, and mysterious inventions now crowding upon our courts must be ascertained and adjudicated. . . . By his fine character, notable ability, and achievements he crowned his distinguished and spotless career in a manner worthy of the supreme aspirations of a lawyer who had

consecrated every achievement and acquisition to the service of mankind and the advancement of the kingdom of the God he worshiped."

"When I met him as an opponent," says Robert H. Parkinson, "I knew that I had at once an able, thoroughgoing, industrious, and skillful antagonist, but that I could always count on his extending every personal courtesy possible without prejudice to his cause, and upon his dealing honorably with me in every respect. When I labored with him as an associate I was much impressed with the thoroughness of his preparation, his devotion to his client's cause, and abstinence from unprofessional conduct or expedients. All who knew him intimately marked him very high among the leaders of his profession throughout the country. It is rare for any man in any profession to combine so many admirable qualities or to perform so great a service and set such a splendid example."

Judge Albert B. Anderson, of the United States District Court of Appeals, writes of Mr. Rector: "I think I knew him and I know I greatly admired him. He stood at the head of the patent lawyers of the Middle

West. He was an able man, a good man, and an altogether wholesome person."

Livingston Gifford makes the following incisive comment: "Mr. Rector the lawyer is deserving of all the praise which has been bestowed upon Mr. Rector the man, coupled with a testimonial to that legal and technical genius which are so necessary in the branch of the profession to which his life was devoted.

"His all-around efficiency makes it impossible to stress any series of characteristics without injustice to others. But I would mention decision in planning a campaign and courage in its execution as two particulars in which I believe he had no equal.

"The legacy of so great a lawyer is not only the successes won for his clients, however important they may have been; it is the example he has set for others of a rise from obscurity to fame achieved without influence or wealth with a rigid adherence to the highest ethics of his profession and universal courtesies to adversaries as well as associates."

Amos C. Miller, the head of the firm of Miller, Gorham, Wales & Noxon, lawyers,

in Chicago, tells a revealing story of "big business."

"About eleven years ago the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company became involved in a patent litigation over a tire-building machine. It was sued by a competitor in business. The suit was a vital one to the Firestone Company, of which I was general counsel. The loss of the suit would have meant the loss of millions of dollars to that company. The patent counsel of the Firestone Company was Charles C. Linthicum, who was then also general patent counsel of the United States Steel Corporation. The case was lost in the trial court in Cleveland, and the case was appealed to the United States Court of Appeals sitting in Cincinnati. Mr. Linthicum felt the need of help in the case and recommended the employment of Mr. Rector as associate counsel. He was employed, and, in fact, prepared the brief for the Court of Appeals. The case was a close one, and having been lost below required the most skillful handling. I shall never forget Mr. Rector's reply to the president of the Firestone Company when the latter said to him that he would like to have

Mr. Rector devote several months to study and preparation of the case so that he could be sure that no stone was left unturned. Mr. Rector replied tersely and decisively that he would devote to the case whatever time he thought was necessary to properly prepare himself, but that he couldn't devote several months of time to *any* case. His attitude was obviously intended as a rebuke to the assumption that he would rent out his time merely because there would be no limit on the rental.

"Mr. Linthicum died before the oral argument in the United States Court of Appeals. Mr. Rector there made the chief argument, although Mr. Frederick P. Fish of Boston was associated with him in the argument. Mr. Cochran of Cincinnati, a lawyer of high standing and ability, who was for many years the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals, said that he thought that Mr. Rector's oral argument in that case was the most masterly presentation of any case to which he had ever listened, either in that court or elsewhere. The case was won for the Firestone Company.

"Mr. Rector also had charge of another

litigation for the Firestone Company of equal importance and of much wider note. This was the famous case of Perlman Rim Company *vs.* the Firestone Company, in which Perlman undertook to levy tribute on every demountable rim for automobile wheels which should be made or used in the United States. Perlman came very nearly doing just this. He had succeeded by questionable means in securing a patent from the United States Patent Office and had gotten his patent sustained in a suit which he had filed against a corporation of Cleveland of excellent standing and $10,000,000 of assets, and had succeeded in substantially ruining that company. He then went after the Firestone Company. In that suit his record was exposed and his suit was lost. It is one of the famous patent cases in history."

Drury W. Cooper, of Cooper, Kerr and Dunham, New York City, out of an acquaintance of thirty years, writes with warmth and discrimination: "Edward Rector was at the very top of the most exacting branch of a profession that demands of its members rectitude of character, unswerving fidelity, and precision of intellectual opera-

tions; a profession that imposes a high code of ethics. He qualified to the utmost in all these particulars.

"I cannot think of a better example to hold before the youth of DePauw University than Mr. Rector's personality, viewed in all of its true lights."

Silas H. Strawn said to the writer: "If Rector was an antagonist in a case I have never known a harder fighter; but he always fought fairly."

Henry N. Paul, of the firm of Fraley & Paul, Philadelphia, with ardent friendship and clear discernment portrays Rector the lawyer in action: "As an antagonist I found he always knew the weakest point of my case and made his attack directly upon it. As a colleague, I found that he always brushed aside all side issues and technicalities and went directly to the main issue. These are habits of mind which are acquired only by long trial experience. Courts learn to know these men and to trust their arguments as they do not trust those of other lawyers. This was pre-eminently the case with Rector. He never tried to fool the Court. And the Court knew it.

"He also had the rare faculty of making an intricate subject clear and simple.

"Another great gift was that he could be very persistent in enforcing his point without irritating the judge on whom he was endeavoring to impress his view. Likewise he could tell a client that his case was a bad one without the client feeling aggrieved. What is it in the personality of a man that confers this ability? I do not know, except that it is a quality of the heart and not of the mind. These qualities made him a great lawyer."

A leader of the Indiana bar, Henry H. Hornbrook, strongly characterizes the breadth of Edward Rector's professional attainments and his high professional standards: "He was very much more than a 'patent' lawyer, in the sense in which that word is usually used. While thoroughly familiar with patent law and with the mechanics which must accompany efficiency in patent cases, he had a much broader background and a far larger appreciation of the law than is embodied in patent law. He had a fundamental conception of principles which should apply to and control a given situation and he

was exceedingly keen and adept in applying those principles to the facts of a given case. He was resourceful and full of courage. He did not hesitate to stand for a position which he felt convinced was right, even though appearing before an antagonistic Court, who was impatient in hearing the side of the case which he was presenting.

"To me his most attractive quality as a lawyer was the lucidity of statement with which he presented an argument. There was a rhythm and flow to his words which made his argument not only attractive to hear but exceedingly simple and convincing to read.

"He was not a commercial lawyer in any sense of the word. He never allowed commercialism to enter into his thoughts or seriously influence or control his judgment.

"His devotion to educational and charitable enterprises which so dominated his mind at times as to lead one to think he had no other interests were only an evidence of the breadth of view and the sympathy of mind which had been developed through many years of successful practice of law."

After twenty years' intimate association as law partner, Frank Parker Davis, pays

eloquent tribute to his colleague: "He was easily the foremost patent lawyer in the West, and he was known the country over for his sterling qualities and great ability. He was conspicuous for straight thinking, honesty of purpose, directness of method, and clearness of utterance. . . . It was not in Mr. Rector's nature to espouse a cause or employ his professional talents in aid of any cause in which he did not believe. He demanded valid facts to go upon and would not countenance other than straightforward dealing with those facts. Misrepresentation of anything was entirely foreign to his nature. All knew that on his word reliance could be placed. I cite an instance, one of many, in which implicit confidence in him as an advocate was evidenced. Having fully informed himself in reference to a claim of unfair trade practices and prepared papers in the case, he took these formal documents, including numerous affidavits, to court seeking drastic action by issuance of a restraining order, a thing which judges do only when convinced that extraordinary circumstances warrant it. He saw Judge Landis in his chambers, who asked him to state the facts,

and when that had been done, directed the issuance of the order stating that it was unnecessary for him to read the papers; it was enough for him that Mr. Rector had stated the facts were so and so."

Judge D. C. Westenhaven, in whose Court Mr. Rector was pleading at the time he was stricken with fatal illness, wrote: "I know no one whom I ranked higher and I can count on the fingers of one hand the members of the patent law bar of America that I should put in the same class. And in character both as a man and a lawyer, he may have had equals but certainly no superiors."

The encomium of Dwight B. Cheever is equally strong: "Rector was the giant of the patent law bar. How great he was only those of us who worked with him and tried to keep up with can know."

Frederick P. Fish, dean of the American Patent Law bar, writing to his friend in his illness, pens these glowing words: "You have had such extraordinary success that you should be willing to rest on your laurels. You should plan for twenty years of *otium cum dignitate*. Do you realize that knowing you has meant a great deal to me?"

A noted patent expert in the East who has known all the prominent patent lawyers of the country for the past forty years wrote at the death of Edward Rector, "The patent profession has lost its greatest ornament."

Such are the judgments of Edward Rector by his professional peers. From a layman in the law they might be set down to the bias of friendship or to the enthusiasm of hero worship. They are the calm, dispassionate estimate of those who knew him best and admired him most.

What were the chief factors in his success? What were the elements of his greatness? The answer is the task of another chapter.

EDWARD RECTOR

CHAPTER V

THE MEASURE OF THE MAN

WHAT manner of man was Edward Rector? In personal appearance he was richly endowed. His radiant face, kindly but penetrating eyes, and noble head singled him out in any company. His erect, vigorous form, and energetic gait marked him as a man of dignity and high-minded purpose. His faultless dress and immaculate appearance combined with good taste and gracious manners were the insignia of a true gentleman. His cheery voice and spontaneous laughter were the natural response of his merry soul. The straightness with which he looked into your eye and the directness of his speech revealed the openness and the seriousness of his nature. His mind was so keen and fertile, his talents so rich and varied, and his manners so winsome that he was a most engaging personality.

There were certain notable qualities in his make-up by which all the world knew him.

They were the chief factors in his extraordinary success.

First of all, he was natively endowed with an eager, productive mind. By studious habits and exacting self-discipline he developed a mental keenness and comprehensiveness that made him masterful. While he was denied the completion of his academic training he acquired the power of intense concentration and unusual clarity in his thinking. He became a master in lucid, forceful speech. His letters, briefs, and oral arguments were models of clear, convincing, and persuasive utterance. He possessed the faculty of penetrating insight and of seizing upon the essential issues in every problem. His mind was constantly being enriched by wide and fruitful reading. On his table was always found a careful selection of latest books on travel, biography, politics, science, and religion. The accuracy of his knowledge in technical matters and the wide range of his information in the general field of human culture were simply amazing. To his mental vigor and comprehensiveness there was added poise or balance of mind. He possessed rare common sense. He had no fads

or wild fancies. He was never the victim of popular illusions. His intellectual processes were utterly dependable. Judged by every test, mental acumen, vigor and fertility of thought, breadth of learning and sound judgment, Edward Rector was a great man.

His intellectual straightforwardness colored the whole fabric of his soul. His nature was in revolt in the presence of sham or hypocrisy of any kind. On one occasion the discussion of a business meeting in which he sat took a sentimental turn. The proposed action ignored facts and appealed to the sympathies of the group. Rector sat in frozen silence. His silence was a vigorous protest against what he called "pious bluff."

The friends of Edward Rector will never forget the unmeasured severity with which he denounced a popular American statesman at the height of his fame for his apparent intellectual dishonesty. This political idol by specious arguments tried to convince himself and the people that his measures were sound and then advocated them with great moral earnestness. This in the mind of Rector was an unpardonable sin. One day he was speaking with another of the World

War in bitter denunciation of the popular slogans for its support. With biting sarcasm he concluded: "So far as I can see only two good things have come out of this war. One is national prohibition; the other is the word 'camouflage.' Both will be very useful."

Closely akin to his habit of straight-forward, honest thinking were his decisive, intense convictions. When his mind was convinced his will was imperative. He knew no compromise. One side or the other must surrender. And he seldom surrendered. I have never known a more dominating personality. He dominated every enterprise in which he engaged. Otherwise he soon lost interest in it. But his domination was not that of autocratic assumption or bigoted self-assertion. It was the rightful rule of reasoned conviction and of unselfish purpose. His determination knew no barriers. He laughed at difficulties. His iron will cried, "There are no Alps," as he moved steadily and irresistibly forward toward his goal.

When engaged in a hotly contested case to which he was giving all his energies in response to my solicitude as to the outcome

he would say—shaking his head—"The cause of justice is having a hard time." Or when victorious he would answer exultingly, "The cause of justice prevailed." This, with him was meaningful pleasantry. His client's case was for him the cause of justice. And all the energies of his masterful nature were marshaled for its support. It was the decisiveness and intensity of his convictions which made him at once a relentless foe and a powerful advocate. In the pursuance of a course which he believed wise and right he was stern and uncompromising, "warmed by the divine fire of Duty" and never torn by divided loyalties.

But the most distinctive trait in the character of Edward Rector was his human passion. His interest in men and women was the absorbing and transfiguring purpose of his life. Mention has been made in earlier pages of his humanness which brought him as a youth into close contacts with all sorts of folks and of his genius for friendship. There was something, however, in his nature far deeper than a mere fondness for people. There was a genuine personal interest in their welfare, in their problems of educa-

tion, livelihood, success, and misfortune. All the wealth of his manifold powers was pouring itself forth instinctively and ceaselessly into other lives. From the partner at his side to the office boy, from the servants in the house to the wealthy clients, college students and teachers, all alike were the objects of his intelligent, self-giving interest. He was helping young men to secure positions, opening the door of opportunity in education or in work to aspiring youth, making his clients, cause his own so genuinely that business was transfused and transfigured by a real friendship. His "one increasing purpose"—to serve humanity is emblazoned in helpful deeds across his whole life. It was his passionate love for people which fused all his powers into a character of singular charm and wholesomeness. He sought and won the highest personal and professional attainments, and then to the lowly and the lofty alike in the spirit of our great Prototype, he said, "I am among you as one that serves."

As a citizen Mr. Rector had breadth of interest and true public spirit, thoroughly patriotic but never a political partisan, gen-

uinely informed concerning public affairs and with measureless contempt for the demigogue and the jingoist. He was so absorbed in the work of his profession that he did not allow himself to be diverted by trivial interests. Every worthy civic and social enterprise found in him a loyal supporter. He promoted generously the benevolences of Saint James' Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was a trustee. His many private benevolences were little known even to his closest friends. The minister of a prominent church wrote of him: "During my long pastorate in Chicago he went out of his way to cheer and encourage me in what he so well understood of the delicate and important work of a minister. With a loving generosity he met wisely and well the responsibilities of wealth." He had no sympathy with sectarian narrowness or with religious bigotry. He revered God, loved men, and cared for noble causes. These, then, are the four fundamental powers driving forward the soul of Edward Rector—vigor of mind, intellectual integrity, decisive convictions, and passion for humanity.

And out of their driving energy springs

his unflagging industry. From his youth to the day he was stricken he was a tireless worker. After he became wealthy he knew no ease. He drove himself with merciless vigor. When he traveled books and briefs were always at hand. Golf and occasional automobile trips were his only diversions. He seldom had a vacation or traveled for pleasure. When most other men are thinking of leisure and retirement he was driving himself at an inhuman speed. At the pinnacle of his profession, having accumulated great wealth, he continued to work with all the eagerness of a young man of energy and of bounding ambition.

Why his indefatigable industry? Not for the money; he did not prize wealth for its power or fame. Work had become the natural expression of his matchless energies. With Rector work was the inner compulsion of his pent-up soul. By ceaseless, cheerful and creative toil he was ever saying, "I must work the works of him that sent me." Hard work was to Edward Rector not a toll imposed upon him by society for a livelihood. It was his joy, his gospel, his reward.

Then, too, he felt the obligation to use his

gifts to the maximum of their power. Society needed the service that he could give. By his efforts "the cause of justice prevailed." Honest business was to be stabilized, productive industries were to be promoted, personal and corporate interests were to be secured, the rights of property and of personality were to be safeguarded. For the sake of these he worked and worked and worked until the end.

To see Edward Rector at work was to discover two other factors in his prodigious success—his simplicity and frugality. His income the first year in Chicago was ten thousand dollars; his total personal expenditures for clothing, incidentals, etc., did not exceed fifty dollars. After he accumulated wealth he continued the simple frugal habits of his earlier years. Never parsimonious, he was never extravagant or ostentatious in his living. In the home, in hotels, and in travel, his living was always modest and frugal. With him economy was not a habit imposed upon him by the necessities of his youth. It was a principle that dominated his whole career—every power of wealth or of personality must be held for its highest use. And

so work and wealth in his hands became true servants of humanity.

The crowning virtue of Mr. Rector's personality was an illusive quality, or perhaps a combination of qualities which I have called high tone. Judge Anderson characterized him as a "thoroughly wholesome person." I think of Edward Rector as an example of "that rarest product and final flower of civilization—a true gentleman." His fearless courage and good breeding were not outward manners, but were the very essence of the inner man. They were the outward and visible signs of a genuine consideration for others. He was "to the manner born," with all the instincts and graces of one of nature's noblemen. His inner life was transparent. In a long and intimate intercourse I never heard from his lips an obscene or irreverent word. His personal habits were free from selfish and noxious indulgences. From his youth he cultivated refined and ennobling companionships. His taste in music, art, and literature revealed the fine quality of his soul. He was incapable of a mean or ignoble act—high-minded, but simple and unaffected as a child;

boyish in his enthusiasm but always clothed with a noble dignity; overflowing with kindness but never sentimental; patient and self-controlled but under just provocation flaming with fiery indignation; full of idealism but with his feet always on the ground; devout but with no touch of religiosity. He took whole-souled delight in the joy and success of others. His uncalculating devotion to the best things and to the best people fused all the superb qualities of his soul in a personality of lofty tone and true nobility. An intimate acquaintance of thirty-five years declared "if any criticism could be made of Mr. Rector, it would be that he had so few of the ordinary human faults." In a small circle of intimates I was wont to speak of him as "the prince." In his use of privilege and power, in spirit and in deed, he was truly princely. This the epitome of his life, and the final measure of the man: "Whatever is true, whatever wins respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovable, whatever is of good repute—if there is any virtue or anything deemed worthy of praise"—he cherished the thought of these things.

CHAPTER VI

HIS HOME AND FRIENDS

It is an indelicate thing for a biographer to invade the sanctity of the home and draw aside the veil which hides the closest intimacies of life from the gaze of the crowd. But the portrait of Edward Rector would be incomplete without a glimpse of his home. To see him in this enchanted circle is to know him at his best. With his life companion, Lucy Rowland, at his side, surrounded by his friends, his face was radiant, his wits sparkled, his good humor was contagious, his companionship was a delight.

In 1893, one year after he located in Chicago, he was married to Miss Lucy Rowland, of Cincinnati. Their marriage had been long delayed by her sense of obligation to her sister's dependent children. From its foundation their home was "an ideal and idyl of our American homes."

Mrs. Rector was born of Welsh parentage and was a woman of singular sweetness of

MRS. EDWARD RECTOR

temperament, breadth of sympathy, strong mind, and firm character. From the beginning she shared the aspirations and entered inspiringly into all of the plans of her husband. She was justly proud of his splendid abilities and worthy achievements. By her devotion to the loftiest womanly ideals and by her wise counsels the service she rendered in his distinguished career is incalculable. She created an ideal home—a woman's loftiest achievement.

The spirit and magnitude of Edward Rector's benevolence would not have been possible had Mrs. Rector not co-operated sympathetically in all his plans. When his first large gift to DePauw was made public a visitor said to Mrs. Rector, "Your husband has done a great thing for the University." She modestly replied, "I may have to take in washing, but we will see it through." She walked with him every step of the way in his great philanthropic enterprises, cheering his heart and sharing his labors—and now heroically carrying them forward.

There was between Mr. and Mrs. Rector an intellectual comradeship, a oneness of purpose, and an equality of social exchange

which made their home life ideal. Denied the blessing of children, their companionship became increasingly tender and enriching. Neither of them was completely happy in the absence of the other. Each so fully respected the individuality of the other that their differences in temperament became mutually complemental.

Enter the home. You are in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. It is a place of modest luxury and simple elegance. The pictures on the walls whether original paintings or copies of the masters have been selected with rare taste. The books on the shelves are not bound tomes for ornament. With every comfort and convenience for human need there is no ostentatious display of household furnishings or decorations. It is not a place to eat and sleep; it is not a miniature clubhouse; it is a real home. Such homes are the hope and the glory of American civilization.

The Rectors cultivated and magnified the joys of their own home. Mr. Rector found his social pleasures not in clubs and lodges but in his home. His pleasure in favorite dishes, in the niceties of the table decorations,

and in the amenities of a genteel household was unconcealed.

The hospitality of the Rector home is an unforgettable experience. Every guest felt the glowing friendship and the radiant good cheer the moment he crossed the threshold. The warmth of friendly welcome, the touch of personal interest, the meticulous care which anticipated every want betokened genuine hospitality.

Birthdays and other anniversaries were celebrated in the Rector home with the zest of childhood. No boy of seven took more delight in birthday gifts, messages, and parties than did Mr. Rector. Christmas was the red-letter day of the year. With his own hands he wrapped and addressed hundreds of Christmas packages. Two weeks before Christmas his office looked like Santa Claus' headquarters. His gifts had an individuality all their own. He never gave or received gifts of jewelry. Personal decoration seemed to him to be a badge of the superficial or a mark of display foreign to his whole nature. Simplicity and genuineness were the charm of all his social intercourse.

In a social group Mr. Rector was natural

and graceful in demeanor, always alert and refreshing; in conversation versatile and vivacious; brilliant in repartee, felicitous in speech, in turn playful and serious in mood. He never assumed the rôle of a self-appointed entertainer. He never monopolized conversation. I never knew a better listener. He listened so intently that he seemed to be giving himself utterly. A frequent quick turn of the head, and the gleam in his piercing eyes were the tokens of his kindling heart. And when he spoke he poured forth his soul with charming candor and directness.

In the choice and cultivation of his friends the utter candor of Edward Rector was resplendent. His likes and dislikes were positive and intense. In a social company to the inquiry, "Do you know that man?" he replied, "No; and I do not want to know him. To look at him is enough!" He never allowed devotion to friends to hide their faults. His love was never blind. He was drawn by an unfailing instinct for true worth to the good and the true. He held their friendship with hooks of steel.

In his personal contacts Edward Rector revealed the unique element in his make-up

—his genius for friendship. It was also the largest factor in his brilliant success. He had an insatiable craving for friends. He gave himself—his thought, his sympathy, his effort—with utter self-abandon to others. They responded by lavishing upon him admiration, confidence, and affection. His clients were soon converted into friends. But his dealings with them were always so just and candid that there was never any conflict in this double relationship. The members and employees of his firm looked upon him not so much as chief but as friend.

What nobler tribute than these soulful words from an office employee?—"To have known Mr. Rector was to have loved him, and to have known him as intimately as we in the office were privileged to know him was to have adored him—both of which I did. I shall always consider that to have spent seven years working with and for him was one of the rarest and finest things life has held for me. He exemplified everything noble and fine, and I shall always think of him as truly godlike." His firm associates with unmeasured devotion wrote at his death: "First in our esteem and admiration;

dauntless always; in all worthy things 'our chief.' But more than these—we loved him." A professional colleague of more than a score of years declared, "I have never known a man who commanded both my love and admiration as did Mr. Rector, or one whose friendship I prized so much." He drew young people to him by the irresistible charm of his personality and his true friendliness. The hearts of hundreds of college youth to whom his philanthropy opened the door of opportunity are laid bare in the words of one of them: "What is there about a man like Edward Rector that so gets hold of you that you never quite lose consciousness of it? Sometimes it seems to me that the only thing in life which counts is personal relationship —the imponderable something of which love and friendship are made."

These spontaneous outpourings are the voice of a great multitude whose hearts cry out, "Friend, all hail! All hail!" On thousands of human tablets more enduring than granite is writ his epitaph—*"Our Friend."*

CHAPTER VII

HIS INVESTMENTS IN HUMANITY

THERE is no more thrilling chapter in the annals of American history than the story of educational philanthropy. For the last fifty years education has been the chief interest of the American people. In almost every commonwealth of the nation a State university has been established and is supported by public taxation. Nearly every religious denomination of the country maintains colleges and universities by private endowment. The General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation and other great educational corporations have been established during the last quarter of the century for the advancement of higher learning. The huge fortunes being devoted to the cause of higher education, hundreds of thousands of American youth every year crowding these institutions, the sacrifices which are being made by poor

young men and women to secure an education are tokens of the extraordinary interest of the American people in the things of the mind.

The phenomenal progress made by the United States in the development of natural resources and in the increase of wealth has been largely due to the advancement of the physical sciences. The mechanical inventions and the development of great industrial enterprises are the fruitage of the laboratory. The huge personal fortunes which have been accumulated in America in the last twenty-five years would have been impossible but for the work of the scientist and the scholar. The contribution which has been made by scientific progress to the alleviation of human suffering and to the advancement of humane enterprises and humanitarian movements would have been impossible but for the colleges and universities of the land. In view of these facts it is not strange that men of wealth have seen the opportunity and have felt the obligation of strengthening the institutions of higher learning.

The name of Edward Rector holds a high place in the record of educational philan-

thropy in America, not alone for the magnitude of his gifts but even more because of their exceptional spirit and unique plan. "He gave to higher education the largest amount ever given to an institution of learning in the history of Indiana; and he gave the largest amount ever given by a single individual to a college of liberal arts in all the records of the Methodist Episcopal Church." It is a significant fact that Mr. Rector's interest in higher education developed during the last twelve years of his life.

He was introduced to DePauw University, the chief object of his educational benefactions, by Roy O. West, an alumnus of the institution and a member of the Board of Trustees. His first gift to the college was the modest sum of fifteen hundred dollars toward the Bowman Memorial Building. Regarding his gifts not merely as benevolences but as investments in the service of humanity, he soon sought further information concerning the college. He inquired concerning the physical plant, the personnel of the faculty, the general character of the students, the Board of Trustees and the alumni of the institution with as much care

and thoroughness as he would use in investigating the standing of a business enterprise in which he was asked to invest. The result of his inquiries he expressed in these words addressed to the president: "I am amazed at the amount and the quality of the work of DePauw University with its limited equipment and meager resources." He was even more strongly impressed by the simple standards of living on the campus and the modest expenses of securing a college education. The fact that forty per cent of the students were working their way through college, that many of them were entirely dependent upon their own resources and that the democratic atmosphere of the campus made self-support entirely respectable deeply moved Mr. Rector.

He heard the thrilling and romantic story of Senator James A. Harlan, of Iowa, one of the earliest graduates of DePauw with eager interest. He told the story again and again as being finely typical of the democratic spirit of the institution which has prevailed from its earliest days.

The story is one of the lovely romances of college life. Young Harlan entered the

Freshman class of 1839, having tramped from Missouri to Greencastle, Indiana, with a pack on his back, without money but determined to get an education. Finding the difficulties of self-support greater than he anticipated, he became discouraged and gave up. He had no sooner started on his return tramping trip home than some of his friends reported to President Simpson (later a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church) that young Harlan had left. The President at once set out to overtake him and persuade him to return. He succeeded. He found a job as janitor for Harlan which he held during his four years' college course. His earnings enabled him to graduate. At his Commencement his college chum named Gooding from Greenfield, Indiana, was visited by his sister and her chum who had a millinery store in Greenfield and was popularly and affectionately known among her friends as "The Little Milliner." The next chapter in the story can be easily imagined, as it has been repeated a thousand times since on the college campus—the college janitor and the Little Milliner met, fell in love and in due course of time were

married. Young Gooding found his future home in California. He did not meet his college chum Harlan for thirty years. When they next met Gooding was on his way to Europe and stopped in Washington. The college janitor of DePauw was then United States Senator from Iowa. He gave Gooding a letter of introduction to his son-in-law —the husband of the daughter of the college janitor and Little Milliner—who was then ambassador of the United States at the Court of Saint James's, Robert T. Lincoln, the son of the great president.

Another notable instance of the DePauw campus made a profound impression upon Mr. Rector. Early in the seventies a young man graduated at DePauw and went soon after as a missionary to Japan. In 1877 he sent four young Japanese students to DePauw. None of them had any money beyond the amount necessary for the trip from Japan to America. They rented the cheapest quarters available and "kept bach" during the four years they were in college. They graduated with honors in the class of eighty-one. After a few years two of the four died. Thirty years later Chinda re-

turned to America as ambassador of the imperial government of Japan to the United States. After several years of distinguished service he was transferred to London to the Court of St. James's. He was succeeded at Washington by his old classmate and brother-in-law, Sato. Chinda remained at London for several years, later headed the peace delegation of Japan at the Conference at Versailles at the close of the Great War, and for several years has served the empire as personal adviser to the Prince Regent and now to the Emperor.

Finding the hardy heroic spirit of the early days still living in the students of the present day, Mr. Rector's interest was greatly quickened. He heard the story of the struggles of young men now on the campus determined to get an education engaging in all sorts of manual labor, waiting on tables in restaurants and hotels, stoking furnaces, keeping books, running linotype machines, selling, from house to house, kitchen utensils or insurance, pressing clothes, assisting as janitors. He was both amused and fascinated by the story of one youth who brought with him from his country home eighteen

stands of bees which were placed in the back-yard of the home where he was rooming. He was fond of saying by the help of the "bees' knees" the young man got through college. Mr. Rector's interest in students supporting themselves in college was quickened by his poignant recollections of his own disappointment forty years earlier in not being able to go to college. He once said, "I always afterward had a notion that if I were ever able I would like to help some fellows go to college who were in the fix I was in at that time." The memory of his own early disappointment, his insatiable thirst for knowledge through the intervening years, and the vision of the opportunity of helping young men and women of ability and ambition inspired his first substantial gift to higher education.

He established the student's aid fund which was to be disbursed in the form of small loans to deserving students. The students to whom loans were made were allowed to fix their own time of payment, giving their notes at a small rate of interest. The principal and interest being paid provided a revolving and self-perpetuating permanent fund for the assistance of worthy students.

The donor provided that no restrictions should be attached to the use of the fund other than personal merit and promise. The loans were made available for every worthy student regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude," regardless, also, of religious beliefs, connections or lack of them.

Shortly after the establishment of the student aid fund Mr. Rector made his first visit to DePauw University. He inspected the plant, became acquainted with members of the faculty and met the students with keen personal interest. His interest was greatly intensified by learning that his father was a member of the Board of Trustees in 1867 to 1869, at which time women students were first admitted to the institution. He took great satisfaction in the fact that his father was an ardent believer in the higher education of women and as a member of the corporation vigorously supported their admission to the college. He felt strongly the appeal of family sentiment, his lifetime longings, and the challenge of a great need.

Later he became a member of the Board of Trustees, whose meetings he always at-

tended and in whose business his wise counsels were invaluable. He was always open-minded and considerate of the judgment of others. He never made his gifts the means of forwarding his own measures. He never sought to force his own views upon the body. He stood stanchly for loyalty to the institution and for true academic freedom. Any attempt to prejudice the work of a teacher on account of differences in political views or theological beliefs he regarded as moral intimidation. I have never known a man who had more genuine respect for the rights of others.

It was in May, 1916. He was spending a few days with Mrs. Rector at Saratoga Springs, New York. In the course of an entire evening with the president of the college he asked, "What are the immediate needs for the best development of DePauw?" The president replied, "The three most urgent needs are student housing facilities, adequate endowment, and provision for free scholarships for the promotion of higher scholastic standards." Before the conversation ended Mr. Rector stated that he had decided to give at once one hundred thousand

RECTOR HALL

dollars to the university to be used as might be later determined. After full consideration he decided to build a hall of residence for women students as a memorial to his father, Isaac Rector. To this initial gift of one hundred thousand dollars he later added one hundred and fifty thousand dollars more for the construction, equipment, and complete furnishing of the splendid hall of residence known as Rector Hall.

From the time the architect's plans were submitted until the dedication of the building Mr. Rector devoted time and study without stint to this new enterprise. With his characteristic thoroughness he visited and inspected scores of student dormitories, scrutinizing with scientific accuracy every detail of the building plans, frequently visited the campus during the process of construction, participated in the selection of furnishings with as much interest as if he were building and outfitting his own home. He put himself into every brick and stone of Rector Hall, so that in the most literal sense it was a living monument to his revered father. The details in construction and in equipment upon which he insisted with per-

sistence were not so much the expression of his own taste as of his enthusiastic interest in making the best possible provision for the service of the students. He soon came to know large numbers of the students personally. His interest in the new building was like that of a father in providing a beautiful home for his own children. Whenever I note the symmetry and completeness of Rector Hall I am reminded that this noble building stands for Edward Rector. It is notably true of this building as of everything he did —the work is the man.

Shortly after the building of Rector Hall Mr. Rector was to see partially fulfilled his second dream for DePauw University—its adequate endowment. He joined enthusiastically with the trustees of the institution to raise a million dollars for permanent endowment. He made the leading gift toward this enterprise. By personal appeals, by letters, and in public addresses he poured his burning energies into this campaign, and none rejoiced more than he over its successful completion. His ingenuity and persistence in these financial enterprises were captivating. One day when in his office he

smilingly handed to the writer a letter just received from a prominent business firm for whom he had lately closed a successful litigation. With the check for his professional services there was inclosed an extra check, and there was added this postscript: "You have done wonders with our suit. We owe you much more than the fee sent herein. We know that you will not consent to receive more than the amount agreed upon in our contract. But we are enclosing an extra check of two thousand dollars with instructions that you send it to your Greencastle Pet." With beaming delight he passed the check into the hands of the college president.

After he had won a long and hotly contested suit in litigation for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company involving many millions of dollars, following the payment of his fee, he received a letter from the president of the company in appreciation of his success, inclosing a check of $5,000 as a friendly gift. Mr. Rector graciously acknowledged the proffered gift, returning the check with the statement that his services had been duly rewarded. He then added, "I do not need the money; but there is a poor college at

Greencastle, Indiana, in which I am greatly interested, whose president never refuses any gift." It is needless to add, the wandering check did not receive a second refusal.

On one occasion a stranger to Mr. Rector was introduced. He inquired of Mr. Rector: "What is your business?" His prompt reply was, "My business is DePauw University, and I practice law as an avocation to pay expenses." For the last decade of his life that statement was literally true. The institution became his primary interest. His great talents were devoted unsparingly to its service. Its officers, faculty, and students became his cherished friends. Its gala days and anniversaries were fixed dates in his crowded calendar. His business friends East and West heard the story of his investments and shared his joy.

An instance in point: Mr. Joseph H. Boyer, for many years president of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, who had seen that enterprise grow from a small beginning into one of the great industrial corporations of the country, was a longtime acquaintance and friend of Mr. Rector. For many years Rector was the chief counsel

and a director in his company. When called upon for a gift to DePauw University Mr. Boyer tersely answered: "I am not particularly interested in colleges. But what does my friend Edward Rector think? I have perfect confidence in his judgment."

The visitor promptly replied, "I have come at Mr. Rector's suggestion to say that he would like to see you give fifty thousand dollars to DePauw."

"Well, then," rejoined Mr. Boyer, "before New Year's Day I'll send you fifty thousand in United States gold bonds."

And so everywhere, Edward Rector's "major passion" for the institution of his adoption was being transmuted into gold and into human interest and loyalty far more valuable than gold. It was the rapture with which he gave himself with his wealth that was the crowning glory of his great benefactions.

Mr. Rector's greatest venture in educational philanthropy was the Rector Scholarship Foundation. This Foundation was established not primarily as a benevolence for the benefit of poor students but for the promotion of high scholarship. In common

with all friends of higher education he was greatly concerned over the popularity of the "sideshows" on the campus—the numerous "college activities" and the apathy of large numbers toward the "main-tent" performance—hard study. After long thought and careful counsel he developed the plan for the establishment of four hundred perpetual scholarships in DePauw University, at least one hundred to be awarded every year. The scholarships were to be awarded solely on the basis of personal merit—scholarship and character. The first or second-honor men graduates of the Commissioned High Schools of the State of Indiana were eligible as applicants. No candidate for a scholarship would be considered who did not rank in the first ten per cent of his graduating class. Later the privileges of the scholarships were extended to selected schools in other States, including also a few in foreign countries. Ten per cent of the scholarship students now come from other States, from Vermont to New Mexico, and from China to South America.

The scholarship provides free fees to the holder during the four years course—a

money equivalent of approximately eight hundred dollars. In addition, the Foundation has a Loan Fund from which needy students may borrow not to exceed one hundred dollars a year, payable at a low rate of interest at the convenience of the student. In the awarding of the scholarships while the qualification is one of scholarship and character, rather than need, it happens that the majority of those who take high-school and preparatory-school honors are boys of small means. At one time more than half of the Rector Scholarship students then in college testified that they would not be able to be in college but for the help of the scholarship.

In addition to the scholarships offered to high-school graduates of high standing others are offered to a limited number of the Freshman class each year of exceptionally high academic rank. One exception was made to the general plan providing scholarships for men only. A scholarship is offered without restriction as to sex to the student taking highest honors in each of the four college classes. Many of these honors have been won by the young women.

What has been the result of this educa-

tional experiment, altogether unique in plan and in scope among American colleges?

By the testimony of all qualified to speak the plan has fully justified the faith and the magnanimity of the founder. The secretary of the Board of Control, Dr. Henry B. Longden, writes: "After an experience of eight years there is very clear evidence that the Scholarship Foundation has not only fulfilled all legitimate hopes and expectations as to the encouragement of scholarship in the high schools, but it has exerted a most salutary influence on the scholarship of the campus. It has furnished a constant incentive to ambitious students to do superior work in the high schools. Best of all it has enabled many boys, with practically no means, to secure an education.

On the campus it has increased the number of men so that in each year's graduating class the number of men exceeds the women by more than half a hundred. It has also stabilized and steadied the student life, since the Rector Scholars are under special obligations of loyalty and obedience. It has markedly raised the grade of scholarship. In 1917-18, before the organization of the

Foundation, the average number of credit points for all students for the year was 20.5. In the college year 1924-25 the average was 47.4. In 1918 there were five graduates *cum laude* in a class of 86; while in 1925 in a class of 244 there were 104 graduates *cum laude*. It has also greatly increased the number of students taking graduate work. From a graduating class of 244, 109 entered graduate schools."

In short, in eight years of operation the Rector Scholarship Foundation has been the most potent factor in raising the level of scholarship in the college over one hundred per cent, in stimulating postgraduate study far beyond the average record of most American colleges. On one college campus it is making scholarship respectable!

A recent graduate of the university with just pride writes: "The five hundred Rector Scholars hold a conspicuous place in every phase of student life. To-day their spirit completely dominates the college. These men have become a veritable leaven which has worked its way through the entire student body. The academic atmosphere cleared of apathy and pride in mediocrity,

scholarship is now in the ascendency among all students and is rapidly becoming the primary job of college life, is becoming to many the joy and inspiration which it has been to the few. It is creating a tradition favoring scholarship."

But what is far more important than the promotion of academic excellence was the spirit which Edward Rector breathed into this enterprise. He so invested it with his own personal interest and stimulated the scholarship students with his ideals and example that they were impressed with an obligation to vindicate in after life the faith and wisdom of their benefactor. Immediately after the scholarships for the year were awarded, Mr. Rector sent a personal letter to the hundred or more young men who had received the honor. When he visited the campus an informal reception was invariably held in which he and Mrs. Rector met and personally greeted every Rector student. He learned their names and the towns from which they had come. He became familiar with the personal circumstances of many. They were affectionately called "Our Boys."

The crowning distinction of Mr. Rector's

philanthropy is that it was personal, intensely personal, and not institutional. He entered into the struggles of the boys, rejoiced in their successes and suffered in their griefs with the affection of a father for his children. He writes to a friend concerning the sudden death of one of them: "I have most distressing news—a telegram announcing the death by drowning of one of the most brilliant and promising of our scholarship alumni, John P. St. John, of the class of '24. I was especially fond and proud of him, and his untimely death is a real tragedy to me." With the manifold interests engaging his attention the wealth of his personal devotion to the students was amazing.

On the walls of the Rector home there is hung a map of Indiana. A pin with a colored glass head is stuck in every town from which Rector scholars come. The map is now literally covered with pins. Already more than one thousand two hundred Rector Scholars have entered the college through his great benefaction, and have seen a vision of the life which is life indeed. One hundred or more young men disciplined by study, inspired by noble associations graduating

every year through the coming centuries and going to the ends of the earth to devote themselves to the upbuilding and redemption of human society. What a noble procession!

"His was the mind
That planned the finest kind
Of giving,
His was the joy
To shape a thousand lives for living!"

In his own unforgettable words he voiced the spiritual significance of all this: My investments in DePauw are not investments in DePauw University, they are investments in humanity, in the men and women who are to carry on the work of our country when you and I are gone—the Harlans, and Beveridges, and Chindas of the future. De Pauw is merely the medium through which we may make such an investment for the future, and offers us the opportunity and the privilege, and a real opportunity and privilege it is. DePauw is a peculiar institution —the more you do for her the more she does for you. My indebtedness and obligation to her were never so great as they are to-day."

It was profoundly true. Rector made a great contribution to higher education. And

LONGDEN HALL, DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

by the law of spiritual reciprocity his own life had been immeasurably enlarged and enriched thereby. Through his gifts to the university he made a great investment in humanity. He had so used the riches of wealth as to make to himself friends who were already receiving him into everlasting tabernacles.

A visitor in Saint Paul's Cathedral asked, "Where is Sir Christopher Wren's monument?"

"Look around you," answered the guide.

If you ask on the DePauw campus for the monument of Edward Rector, look around you. Three splendid halls of student residence: Rector Hall, a memorial to his father; the Lucy Rowland Hall, in honor of his wife; the Henry Boyer Longden Hall, commemorating the name of the secretary of the Rector Scholarship Foundation, who for forty-five years has been a professor in the university; a Pension Fund providing a retiring allowance for teachers of long service in the institution; a permanent endowment of several millions of dollars for the support of teaching and for the Rector Scholarship Foundation.

But you must look for his real monument beyond the limits of the college campus. Twelve hundred American youth heading an unending procession, who through future years will hear the story, catch the vision, and follow the example of Edward Rector. They were truly his "best investment." They were also his joy and glory. The crowning distinction of his career was this—he learned the secret alchemy of transmuting wealth into character values. Wealth in his hands became a servant of the things of the spirit. Had he simply amassed a great fortune and bequeathed it to his kin in fifty years his record would occupy scarcely an inch of a page in American history. Giving with his fortune himself to the service of humanity, he has won perpetual fame.

In the city of Cleveland, July, 1925, Edward Rector was stricken with a sudden attack of illness from which he died in his home in Chicago, August 1. Hundreds of telegrams and letters of sympathy and tribute poured into the home for weeks afterward. The funeral and memorial services held in Chicago and at DePauw University were notable demonstrations of genuine

grief for the loss of a great and good man, who was great in all his goodness and good in all his greatness. His life had ever made greatness honorable and goodness attractive. Therefore a multitude in tears justly called his name blessed.

"I have written unto you, young men, because you are strong," that you may reconstruct in your day the triumph which this man created out of his life. What a man can attain through ability and industry, through intellectual honesty and high purpose, through unselfish devotion and will, he attained. To the ardent youth of America of ability and courage Edward Rector is an enthralling example.